

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all previous versions, and listings, of the claims.

- 1.-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 415, wherein said subject suffers from AMD.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 415, wherein said subject is at risk of developing AMD.
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 415, wherein the method delays the AMD~~retinal or choroidal degenerative disease or condition~~.
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 415, wherein the method reverses the AMD~~retinal or choroidal degenerative disease or condition~~.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 415, wherein said cell is a photoreceptor, an RPE cell, a Muller cell, or a cell type of the choroid selected from the group consisting of an endothelial cell, a smooth muscle cell, a leukocyte, a macrophage, a melanocyte and a fibroblast.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said MT1-MMP gene or protein is located within said cell.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said MT1-MMP protein is located in an extracellular matrix.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said extracellular matrix is an interphotoreceptor matrix.

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 13, wherein~~ A method for treating a subject having age-related macular degeneration (AMD), comprising contacting a retinal or choroidal cell of said subject with an agent that decreases the activity of an AMDP-related or phagocytosis-related protein, wherein said protein is matrix metalloproteinase, membrane-associated 1 (MT1-MMP) and said agent is an antibody that specifically binds to a MT1-MMP protein or peptide.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said antibody neutralizes at least one biological activity of MT1-MMP.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said biological activity is activation of progelatinase A or degradation of extracellular matrix.

18-52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 15, wherein the nucleic acid sequence of said AMDP-related or phagocytosis-related gene encodes a said MT1-MMP protein is human MT1-MMP, and consists of~~ encoded by the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:15, or a polymorphic variant thereof.

54-56. (Cancelled)

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said antibody is selected from the group consisting of a polyclonal antibody, a monoclonal antibody, a single chain antibody and an Fab fragment.

58-62. (Cancelled)